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## REMARKS on Hyrtl's Collection.

(Read before the American Philosophical Society.)

Prof. Cope stated that this collection embraced 800 skeletons, each with the branchial apparatus mounted separately. A large proportion of the specimens measured two feet long and upwards. The Selachians were not very numerous. Among them was to be noted a saw-fish from the South Pacific Ocean. The Dipnoi were represented by two perfect specimens of the *Protopterus annectens* from Central Africa. The Crossopterygians were present in five specimens of *Polypteri*—some from Central, others from West Africa. Of Ganoids a fine series of *Lepidosteus*, Sturgeons, *Spatularia* and *Amia*.

The series of Nile fishes was probably the best in existence. The *Mormyridæ* were especially complete and represented by large specimens. There were two of *Gymnarchus niloticus*, each three feet in length. Many of the specimens were obtained at Chartum, in Nubia, others came from Gondokoro on the White Nile between lats. 4° and 5° N.

The Australian fauna was well represented. From it might be selected the genera *Schuettea*, *Neosilurus*, *Gadopsis* and *Parapistus*. Numerous species from Samarang, Singapore and Polynesia were included, and the *Osteoglossum formosum* from Borneo required especial mention. The ichthyology of Hindostan was well represented. The Mediterranean series was very complete. Among them was to be noted a specimen of the rare *Ruvettus speciosus*, three feet in length, one of *Trachipterus liopterus* still larger and an *Alepocephalus rostratus*. From the Canary Islands were some uncommon varieties, as *Nesiarchus nasutus* and *Centrolophus ovalis*.

The North American series was good, especially the *Catostomidæ*. There were numerous West Indian species, and a good representation of South American; chiefly from Chili, Puerto Cabello, Rio and the tributaries of the Amazon and Essiquibo. The latter were mostly from Natterer's collections, and embraced many forms of Siluroids, Characins and Chromids.

The specimens were prepared by Prof. Hyrtl himself, which was an unequalled guarantee of their completeness in all respects, to the most minute. The preparation of the supplementary ribs of the *Clupeidæ* (herring) was to be noted as an especially difficult task which had been successfully accomplished. The collection appears to have been commenced by Prof. Hyrtl not later than in 1850, and had been an object of interest to ichthyologists and anatomists for several years. It was probably the most valuable collection for study in this department in existence, and Prof. Cope thought it cause of satisfaction that it had arrived safely in the United States.\*

\* The liberality of Cope Brothers in transporting it free of charge from Liverpool to Philadelphia was acknowledged.

Prof. Cope remarked upon the peculiar features of some of the figures on the plates in Benzel's *Reptilfauna der Gosauformation*.

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*Stated Meeting, November 17, 1871.*

Present nineteen members.

MR. FRALEY, Vice-President, in the chair.

Mr. Phillips and General Tilghman, recently elected, were introduced to the presiding officer, and took their seats.

A photograph of Mr. Chabas was received for insertion in the Album.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from M. F. Chabas, dated Chalon sur Saône, Oct. 21, 1871 (Proc. 83, 84, 85); from the Linnean Society, London, Aug. 2 (xiv., i. 82, 83, 84, 85); and from the Smithsonian Institution (86).

A letter from the Linnean Society announced the sending of publications.

Donations for the Library were received from the Prussian Academy, the Montsouris Observatory, the Astronomical and Linnean Societies, the London Nature, the Boston Public Library and Dr. Samuel A. Greene, the Franklin Institute, the College of Pharmacy, the Medical News, the Penn Monthly, Mr. Latrobe of Baltimore, and the California Academy of Sciences.

A letter was received from Mr. Henry W. Field, dated Royal Mint, London, Oct. 22d, accepting his appointment to prepare an obituary notice of the late Sir John F. W. Herschel.